



# **Fire Scout**

**A Modern Take on Fighting Wildfires**



# Team Fire Scout

Team Leader

Release Manager

Recorder

Hardware Researcher

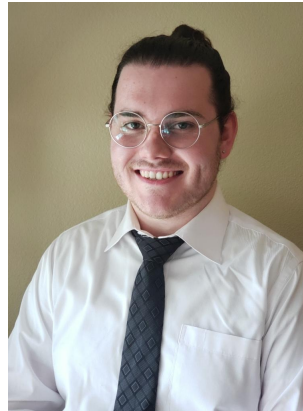
Interface Manager



Drew  
Sansom



Nick  
Bollone



Jacob  
Hagan



Matthew  
Briody



Kenneth  
Klawitter



# Mentor

## Sambashiva Kethireddy

- Masters student in Computer Science at NAU
- Graduate Teaching Assistant





# Client

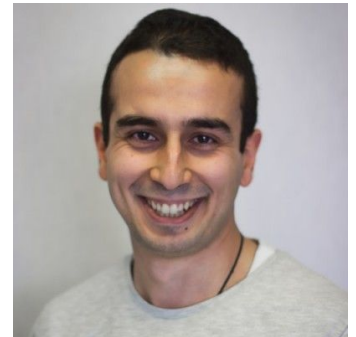
## **Dr. Fatemeh Afghah**

- Assistant Professor, School of Informatics, Computing and Cyber Systems (SICSS)
- Director, Wireless Networking and Information Processing (WiNIP) Laboratory



## **Alireza Samsoshoara**

- Client Assistant
- Ph.D. Candidate At NAU
- Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant





# Problem

## Fires

- Unpredictable
  - USA 2019 - **4,664,364 acres**
  - USA 2018 - **8,767,492 acres**
- California 2020
  - 4.2 million acres burnt
  - 33 direct lives lost
  - Indirect deaths of 1,200+
  - \$10 Billion total economic loss

## Analysis

- Not real-time
- Information gap
- Expensive
- Risk human lives



# Solution



- Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)
  - Remove humans from fire
  - Provide real-time data
  - Implement AI
- Onboard Hardware
  - Nvidia Jetson Nano
  - HD and thermal cameras
  - Image processing algorithms
  - SDR communication



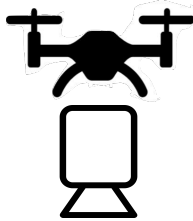
# The Process



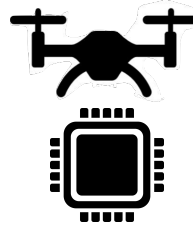
1. Pilot Flies the Drone



2. Drone Finds Fires



3. Drone Processes Fires



4. Drone Sends Data to User





# Requirements

- DJI Phantom 3 Pro or DJI Matrice 200
- Nvidia Jetson Nano
  - Image Classification
  - Object Detection
  - Image Segmentation
  - Path Planning
- PiCamera v2
- FLIR Vue Pro R Thermal Camera
- SDRs
- GUI



# Architecture



- **Front-end**

- Python
- Tkinter



- **Back-end**

- OpenCV
- Tensorflow
- Keras
- Yolov3
  - Darknet
- U-Net

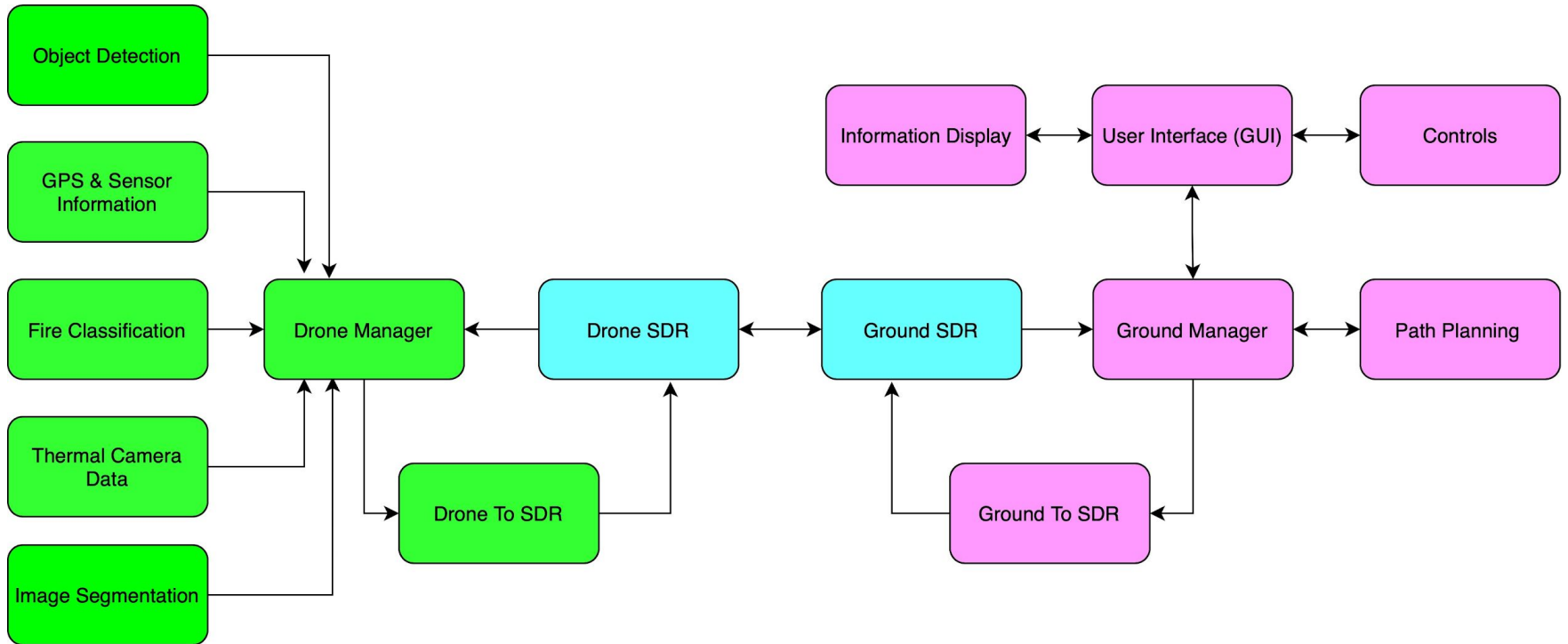




# Implementation

- **Drone System**
  - Run AI models
  - Gather info from sensors
  - Pass it to the SDR
- **SDRs**
  - Relay information
- **Ground System**
  - Display info
  - Present user with drone System Controls

# Implementation




# Prototype



Fire Scout GUI

Menu

Title of current operation



Temp + Humidity  
Temp: 0.0 °C  
Humidity: 0.0 %

CO2 Data  
CO2: 0.0 ppm

GPS  
Longitude: 0.0  
Latitude: 0.0  
Altitude: 0.0  
Direction: 0.0

Weather API

Request HD

Request Thermal...

Begin Classification

Begin Segmentation

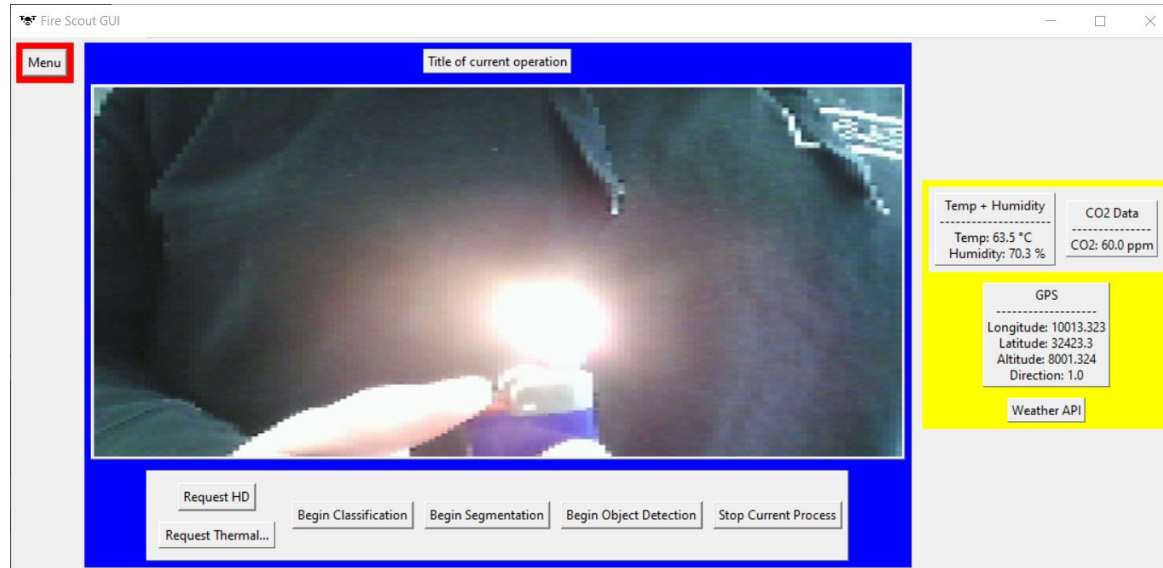
Begin Object Detection

Stop Current Process

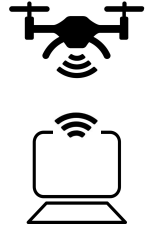
# Prototype



- Sensor Input



Drone Sends  
Sensor Info

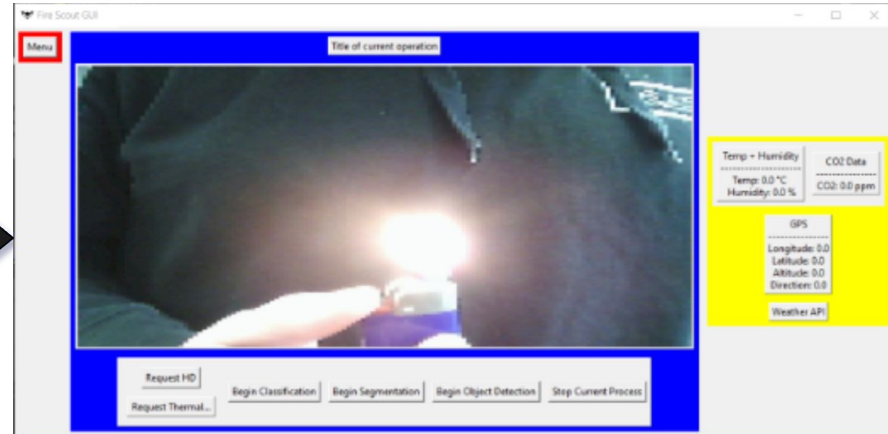
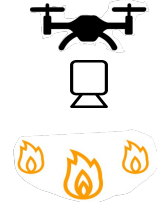


# Prototype



- Classification
  - Binary fire vs no fire detection

Drone Finds  
Fires





# Prototype

- Object Detection
  - Detection based on patterns

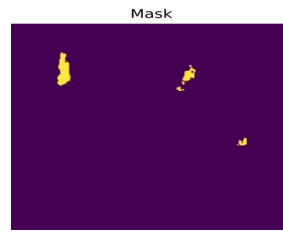
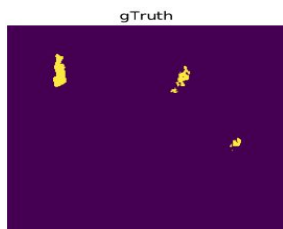
Drone Processes  
Image



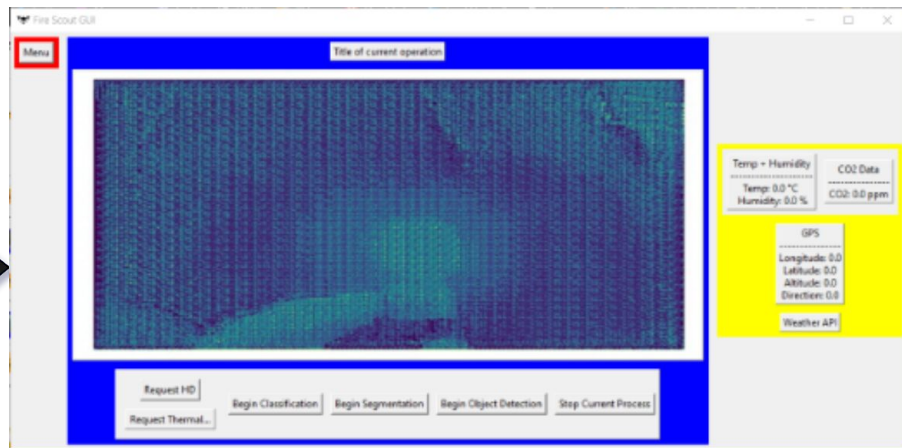
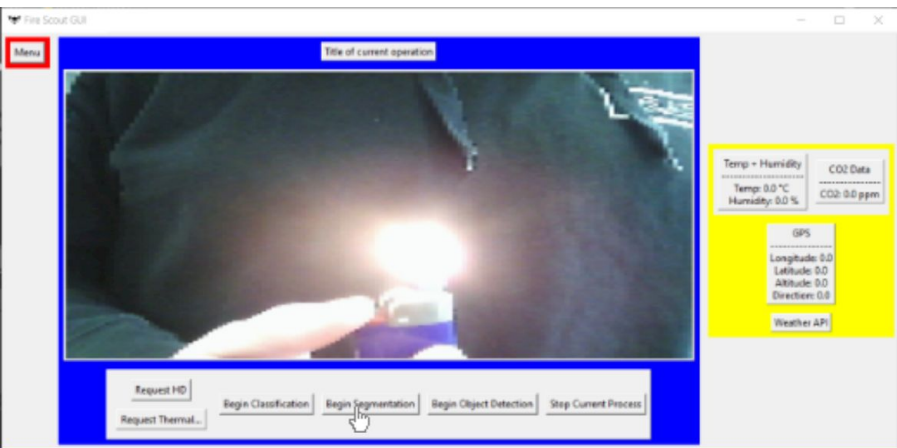
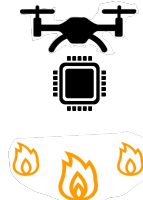


# Prototype

- Segmentation  
-Binary pixel level detection



Drone Processes  
Image



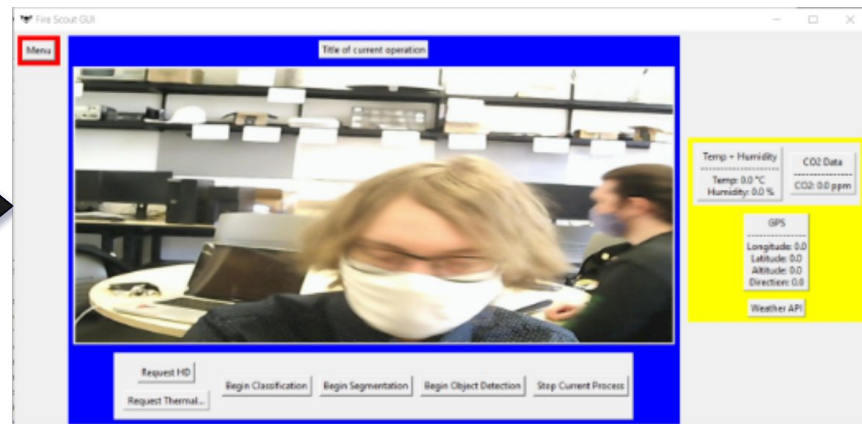
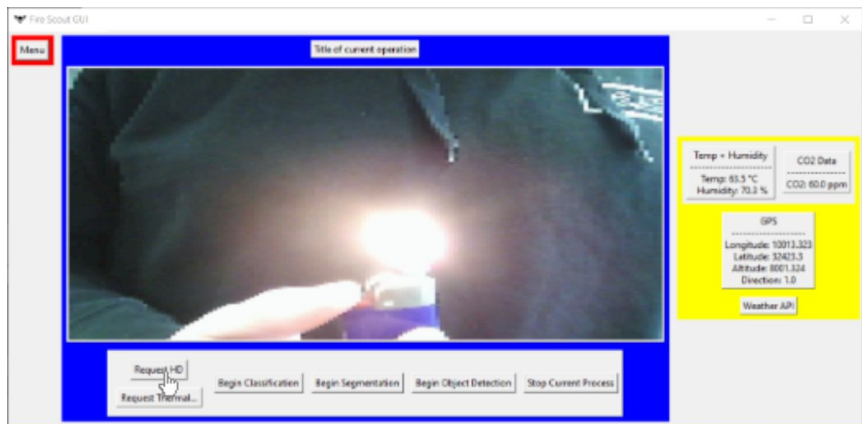
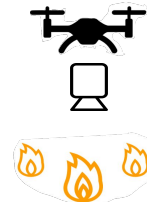




# Prototype

- HD Capture

Drone Takes  
HD Snapshot

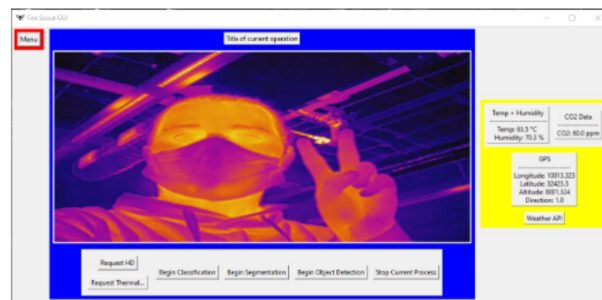
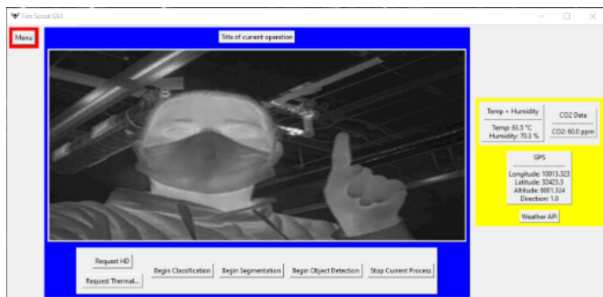
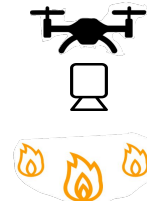




# Prototype

Drone Takes  
Thermal Snapshot

- Thermal



# Challenges



- Nvidia Jetson Nano
  - Converting models to Nvidia Jetson Nano
  - Different versions (Python, Tensorflow)
  - OOM errors
  - Lack of documentation
- SDR pipeline

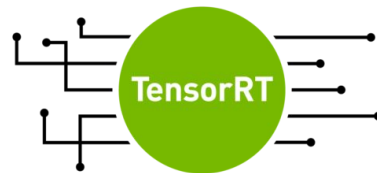


Drone SDR (left) and Ground Station SDR (right)

# Solutions



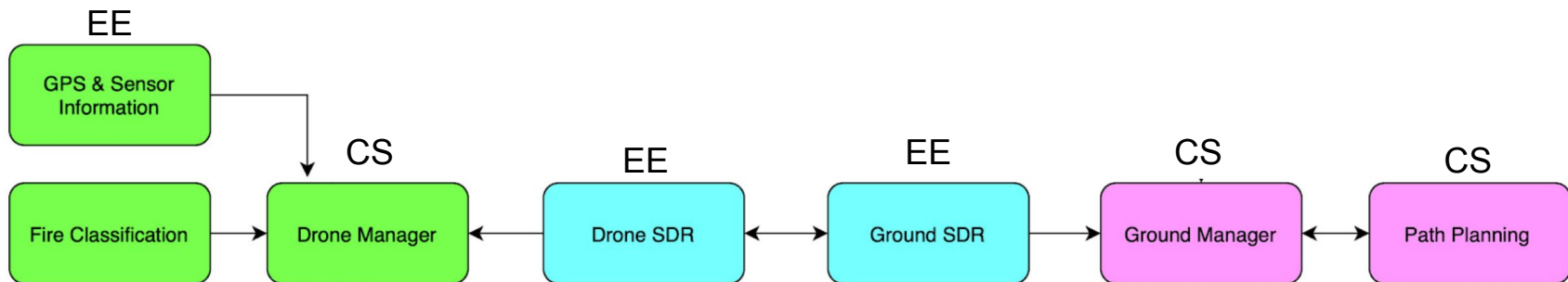
- TensorRT
- Custom Models
- Virtual Environments
- Working with EE to get the SDR to an acceptable state





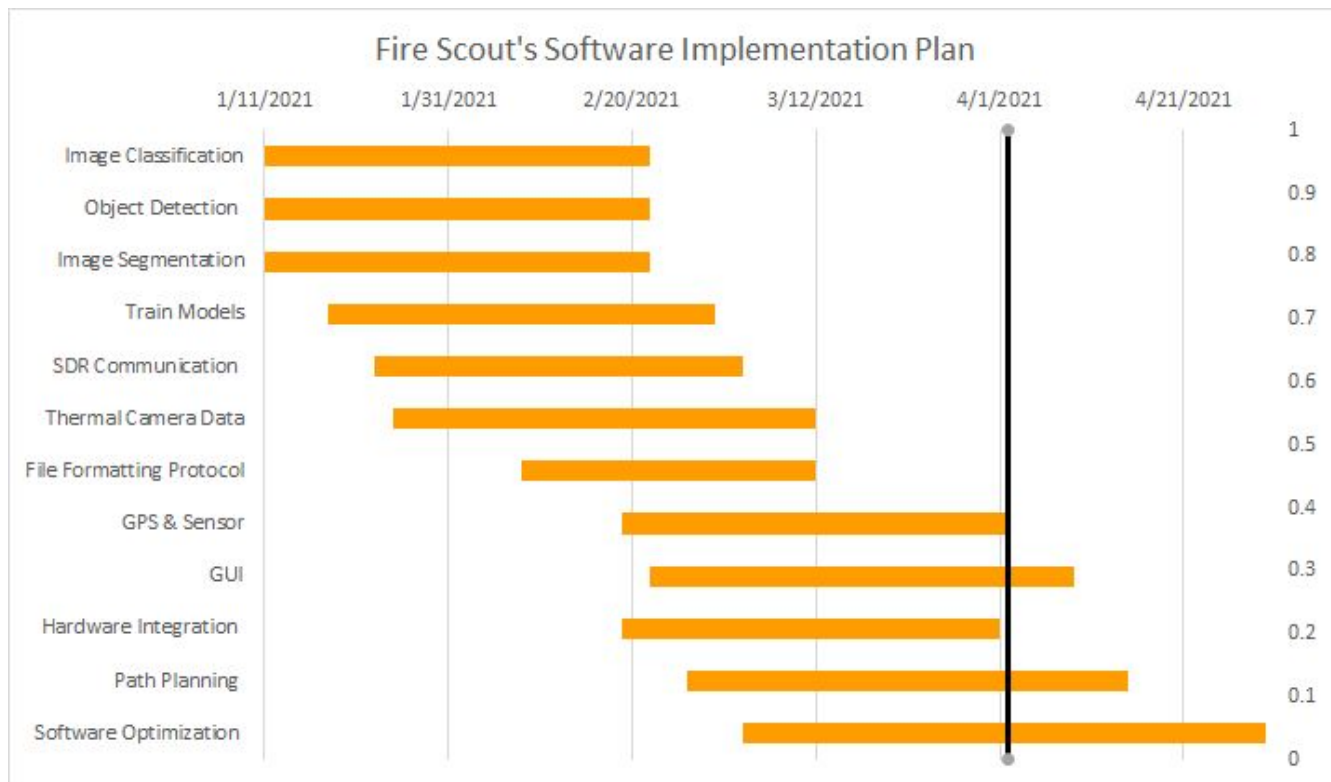
# Testing Plan

- Unit Testing the classes sent through the SDR
  - Used by CS and EE
- Integration and System testing
  - CS's modules "integrate" through EE's modules
  - EE Dependent





# Schedule



# Conclusion



- Fires kill and need to be fought in a unique ways
- Fire Scout saves lives and fights fires in a modern way
  - AI can detect and analyze fires
  - Emphasis on future developers
- Whats next...
  - Finishing EE integration
  - Optimizing models
  - Gathering Metrics



# Sources

- <https://www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/drones-are-fighting-wildfires-some-very-surprising-ways-ncna820966>
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- <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Hidden-cost-of-wildfire-smoke-Stanford-15595754.php>
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